

-- 6. The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other. --

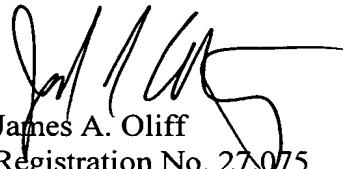
-- 7. The pivot assembly according to claim 3, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3-4 are amended and claims 5-7 are added to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA/cmm

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: July 11, 2001

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 5-7 are added.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

3. (Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings.
4. (Amended) The pivot assembly according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other.